

- 5 -

Appl. No. 10/634,873  
Amendment dated November 30, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of August 30, 2004

**- REMARKS/ARGUMENTS -**

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 to 16 remain in the application.

Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bracq (FR-1,277,394) in view of Witjes.d

Claims 3, 4 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bracq in view of Witjes as applied to Claims 1 and 2 above, and further in view of Schroeder et al.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bracq in view of Witjes further in view of Schroeder et al. as applied to Claims 1, 2 and 4 and further in view of Lindstrom.

Claims 11 to 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bracq in view of Witjes as applied to Claims 1 and 10 above, and further in view of Massé.

Claims 6 and 7 were indicated as allowable.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to introduce therein the subject matter of former Claims 2, 4 and 6. Claim 6 has been indicated as allowable and thus new amended Claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

Claims 2, 4 and 6 have been cancelled as the subject matter thereof has been introduced into amended Claim 1. The dependency of Claims 3, 5 and 7 has been changed in view of the cancellation of Claims 2, 4 and 6.

- 6 -

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The application is now in condition for allowance and an early action to that effect would be much appreciated.

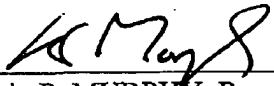
Respectfully submitted,

Jérôme LAVOIE

By:

November 30, 2004

Date

  
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I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

KEVIN P. MURPHY, Reg. No. 26,674  
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November 30, 2004  
Date